Doc. No. 8209*

Prio 1.

THE MAR CRIMES OFFICE

Judgo advocate General's Department - War Department

United States of America

In the matter of treatment and conditions * Perpetuation of Testimony of existing at Woosung Camp, Bridge House Jeil, Kiang Wan Military Prison, Vard Road * Jail, Menking Military Prison, and Poking Military Prison, from 23 December 19-1 until 24 August 1945

Winfield Scott Cunningham, Captain, U.S.N., Ser. No. 056074.

Taken at:

U. S. Nevel Academy, Annapolis, Maryland.

Date:

1. November 1945.

In the Presence of: W. h. Abrens, Captein, USMCR (Retid.), War Crimes

Office, Weshington, 25, D. C.

Reporter:

Martha L. Winblad, Yl/c, USMR, War Crimes Office,

Washington 25, D. C.

Questions by

W. H. Abrats, Captain, USMCR (Ret'd.).

- Q. What is your name, rank, sorial number, and permanent home address?
- A. My name is Winfield Scott Cunningham, Captain, U.S.N., serial No. 056074. My personent home address is Coder Park, R.F.D. #2, Annapolis, Maryland.
- Q. Have you recently been returned to the United States?
- A. Yes, from Chine on 7 September 1945.
- Were you a principer of war?
- A. Yes, from 23 December 1941, until 24 August 1945.
- Q. Will you give us chronologically the places at which you were interned.
- A. I was kept on Wake Island for twenty days until the 12th of January 1942, and with about 1200 other prisoners left Wake Island for Shanghai. We stanced of Yokahama on 17 January 1942 and we were interviewed there by Japanese interpreted the Navy Department and by the Tokyo Press. I was allowed to take a recording to the serving the serving

A. (Con'd.)

that I was well and was being treated well. We arrived at Shanghai on 23 January and wont to Woosung on the 25th, disembarked there and marched five miles to a prison camp, known as the Shanghai War Prisoners camp, and from there on 9 February was taken to Shanghai for questioning by the Japanese Intelligence, and was returned to Woosung on 26 February. I escaped from there on 11 March, and was recaptured the next day with four others. Their names are, Commander Woolley, Royal Navy, Lt. Commander C. D. Smith, USNR, Mr. N. D. Teters from Seattle, Washington, and a Chinese boy whose name was Lu.

We got out of the prison came by digging under the electrified fence and went on foot to the junction of the Yangtze and Whangpoo Rivers, where we planned to cross to Postung. We were unable to get a boat to cross the river. The norming came and we went to a Chinese farmer's barn near the village of Powashan. During the course of the day, the word got ground that we were there, and the Chinese farmer reported us to the local Chinese puppet troop authorities, who captured us and turned us over to the Japanese. We spent two days in the Woosung military police jail and were taken back handouffed and led around the prison camp to show them how we escaped. We were then moved to Bridge House. We were kept there a month under investigation and were confined in cells in the Bridge House, one of us in each cell; however, in these cells were 12-15 Chinese prisoners and 4-5 American prisoners (civilians). The treatment was fairly good compared to the treatment of the other prisoners because the Japanese lieutenant, Kawai, was apparently trying to make an impression on us by giving us especially good treatment. We were allowed to buy clothing in the city and also extra food because the Japanese food was very poor. While we were there under questioning, we received no ill treatment other than that our cells were infested with lice, and that we were required not to talk, and were required to sit in the same position all day long. Those of us who did telk, on some occasions, including myself, were hit over the head with a club by the Japanese quards, which was done more or less as a netter of routine.

On the 14th of April, we were taken to the Military prison at Kiang Wan where we were kept for two months while awaiting trial. We had a trial on 14 April, the day we arrived, but it apparently did not suit the Japs. so they gave us another one on 2 June. The conditions of our confinement were bad only from the point of view that we were actually confined in solitary confinement for 23-3/4 hours a day as an average. The food wasn't bad, and we were able to keep fairly clean. We exercised every other day for about thirty minutes. The trials were not really trials in the ordinary sense of the word, but were merely hearings because we had had nothing to conceal. The Japs did not try to get information by forceful means. The trial was presided over by a Jap General with one Colonel and one Major as the other members, and a prosecutor with the rank of Captain. We brought attention to the various international conventions and pointed out that under these agreements, the maximum

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punishment for escape was 50 days of solitary enfinement. We already h d undergone two months of solitary and a month of other confinement. The Japanese court contended that they were not signatories of the convention and were not bound by the provisions of the Geneva Convention agreements. They tried us under provisions of Japanese military law as deserters from the Japanese Army. The three military members of the escape party were sentenced to ten years confinement, Mr. Teters, to two years, end the Chinese boy, to one year confinement. On the 8th of June, we were moved to Shanghai Municipal Jail, locally known as the Ward Road Jail, to serve out our sentences. We remained there for two years and four months. Mr. Teters was released at the expiration of his sentence on 2 June 1944. On the 8th of October 1944, we escaped from the Ward Read Jail. Eight escaped this time. They were Commender Loolley, Lt. Comdr. Smith, Marine Cpl. J. G. Storey, Cpl. C. W. Brimmer, Marine Set. R. F. Coulson, Marine Pvt. 1/c C. A. Stewert, and PhM3/c A. T. Brewer. The enlisted Marines had escaped later then we did the first time. Three of the prisoners, Woolloy, Smith, and Storey, completed the escape and reached Free China and eventually the United States. The other five were captured in Shanghai by Chinese police supervised by Japanese, and were returned to the Bridge House on the 7th of October.

We remained there until 3 November, and were moved back to Kiang han Military prison. We were tried again on 11 December. Brimmer and I were sentenced to life imprisonment, Stewart to ten years confinement, and Coulson and brower to eight years confinement. At the same trial they were trying three civilians who assisted in the escape. These three civilians were Peterson, Olafson, and Halverson. They were sentenced to 10, 8, and 6 years, respectively. The three civilians were moved to Ward Read Jail on 23 December 1941. The other five were kept in the military prison. On 19 January 1945, we were moved to Manking Military Prison. When we get there, we found another Marine Corporal by the name of Battles, and also a civilian from take Island named Herndon, who was serving a two-year sentence for fighting in a prison. There were also present in the Manking Prison the four surviving Declittle fliers. We did not actually see them, but we knew they were there.

On 1 August, we were taken to Peking (the five of us who escaped the second time and Battles). On 18 August we were taken from the military prison and moved to Fengtai, the civilian internee camp outside of Peking together with a civilian named Raymond Rutledge who had been sentenced to one year in July for attempted escape. That made a total of seven who were moved to the internee camp. The next day we moved back to Peking and were kept under guard by the Japs until 24 August. On the 20th of August we were contacted by the Army rescue Mission which had dropped in by parachute on 17 August. On 24 August, the Army brought in two B-24's to Peking and took out twenty-seven prisoners of war and took us to Sian, China, and then to Kunming. I was kept there for eight days undergoing a medical check over and then flown back, with other prisoners from Mukden, leaving Kunming on 2 September and arriving in the States by way of India and North Africa on 7 September.

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Q. How was the treatment on the Nitta Maru between Wake and Shanghai?

- A. The officers were all confined in the mail room of the ship; thirty in a small room. We were not allowed to talk. The food was very light. They evidently wented to keep the prisoners from being in good physical condition and wented also to keep our spirits down if possible. We were fed twice a day; the food consisted of thin rice gruel and a small bit of fish or pickle for the afternoon meal. The sanitary facilities were altogether lacking; there were none for washing or shaving. The plumbing was in the nature of five-gallon time.
- Q. Were any of the officers sick at this time?
- A. I do not believe anyone was sick except from digestive troubles.
- Q. Did the Japa Lake any attempt to furnish any medical treatment.
- A. Very little treatment w s given to us. Capt. H. Frueler had been wounded in aerial combat on 22 December. He had two bullet wounds in his shoulder and had great difficulty in getting attention. He occasionally was given a little treatment.
- Q. On this trip did you witness any beating of the officers and nen?
- A. Yes. One officer, Capt. W. M. Platt, USMC, was besten with a club for telking. I didn't witness any other beatings, but many took place along the enlisted prisoners and civilians elsewhere on the ship.
- Q. Did you see the conditions of the enlisted ren's and civilians' ownters?
- A. They were similar to ours, but were colder. We were over the engine room. I could look down the passage-way and get a glimpse of them, but could not inspect them in any way.
- Q. Was your soney and other valuable collected?
- A. They confiscated all our possessions and forced us to leave them on the deck. They also took all the extra clothing we had. They issued each of us a small wool and cotton undershirt to add to our wardrobes. The officers had sufficient blankets but I don't believe the rest of the people did.
- Q. Would you have enything of note to report of your stay in Yokahama?
- A. They took several of us from the compartments to be interviewed by the press and Naval intelligence, and in several cases, made recordings for our dependents in the States, saying that we were well, and in order to get these announcements through on the radio, we said we were well treated.

- Q. Did they take all your money?
- A. Yes, all of our money except for some which a few of the men managed to conceal was taken either at Wake or on toard the ship. They also took all our jewelry, watches, fountain pens and anything else which had any value.
- Q. While you were in this first prisoner of wer camp near Shanghai, did you suffer any beatings.
- A. No. I did not.
- Q. Did you witness any beatings administered to any of the prisoners.
- A. I saw several officers and non beaten by Japanese sentrys and supervisory officers for failure to salute, or for other trivial reasons.
- Q. Can you give us the name of the commanding officer of the Nitta Maru?
- A. No.
- Q. Did you know the names of any officers on board the ship?
- A. Lieut. Scito was in charge of the prisoners.
- 4. Do you know the name of the commanding officer of the first prison camp?
- A. Yes. Col. Yuse was the commanding officer. Eis No. 1, was Captain Endo who was assisted by Lieut. Akiyama and Dr. Shindo.
- Q. Do you know the names of the interpretors?
- A. They had several interpreters, one was a Korean a civilian I do not know his name. There were two Japanese non-commissioned officers who knew some English.
- Q. Is it a fact that in most instances the beatings were executed upon the orders of the interpreters?
- A. The interpreters were very errogent and overbearing and took it upon themselves to slap the prisoners.
- Q. Did you at any time see pulsoners abused in the presence of Captain Endo?
- A. I do not recall that I did.
- Q. Or in the presence of the Commanding Officer of the camp?
- A. No. They were aware of the heatings.

- Did you report to the top-side that the men were being abused and. beaten by the sentrys and the inferior in command?
 - A. Yes, on many occasions.
 - Q. In this jail, Bridge House, will you tell us what treatment was received and anything you know concerning the running of that place in the nature of atrocities?
- A. The only atrocities I witnessed was beating of Chinese prisoners by the guards. They were severely beaten at times for smoking or stealing food. I heard them besting and terturing other prisoners in other rooms of the Bridge Horse, while we were in the offices of the Bridge House, though I could not see what was going on.
- At Ward Road, did they administer any corporal punishment to you?
- A. None of the prisoners of war were punished by corporal punishment. Some were confined on bread and water for smoking violations. Nebody was struck.

The Japanese officer in charge of the prinoners of war was a member of the gaol staff called Mori, in charge of the foreign section in which we were confined along with a group of other prisoners convicted of espionage and sabotage. These prisoners were nationals from all over Europe including fifteer political prisoners who had been convicted of espionage. Five of them were Soviet citizens who were sentenced for espionage activities in Shanghai. We found there also seven other political prisoners - 6 British and one Russian - who had been convicted of organizing a sabotage ring. Mr. Gande, a British citizen, who was a Shanghai merchant, was the leader of this ring and sentenced to four years confinement. Another, Mr. Elias, was a Shanghai broker.

- Q. These people you just mentioned were civilians who were convicted of offenses against the Japanese regime?
- A. Yes. There were also upwards of 100 asserted consular prisoners and white prisoners of no nationality (mostly White Russian) serving time for ordinary crimes.
- These civil criminals were confined in the same place as the prisoners of war, weren't they?
- Yes.
- Q. Did you make any complaint to the person in charge of the war prisoners that this situation was contrary to the rules of land warfare?
- A. Yes, we made several written complaints to the superior Japanese Army officer in that area protesting against being confined with criminals and about the fact that we were allowed no tobacco and no writing

materials and also requesting that we be allowed to supplement our food supply from outside. These requests were ignored. From about the middle of June for about six rombhs; however, we were allowed extra food on advice of the doctor.

- Q. At Nanking, did you suffer any abuses?
- A. This second trip to bridge house, we were in a cell with a large number of Chinese and conditions were very bad because of lice. The food was poor consisting solely of rice and resulted in my case in malnutrition, indigestion, and beri-tori. At Kiang Wan the Japs who dished out the food saw to it that the Americans got the thinnest soup and the smallest portions of rice. We had no medical attention. Some of the prisoners were suffering from bad skin infections; I had a couple of infections on my log as a result of the escape, that lasted quite a while the suffered quite a bit from cold. They gave us no clothing other than what we had escaped in, in early October, and the four or five blankets they have us were thin and had very little warnth. We were in colitary confinement and averaged fifteen minutes of exercise two or three times a week.

In august 1943, while in ward Road Gael, the Swiss Consul commenced to furnish assistance in the way of small amounts of food sent in, and also small allowances of money and a certain amount of clothing and scap and thinks of that nature. The Jap in charge, Mori, took about 40% of everything and used or sold it to others. At first, the movernor was a Jap, but he was retired in July 1943, and replaced by a Chinaman. The Chinese took no action but left everything to Mori who stole the goods and food sent in to us, and also the money we used to supplement the food. We were supposed to be able to write to our relatives at home but because of Captain Mori, occasionally they failed to supply us with writing materials. We received mail which had been censored by the Japanese military police. I got some three dozen or more letters during my imprisonment. Some of the prisoners got as few as two letters during the whole time of confinement. This was probably because the Japa took no pains to censor and issue it to thom.

- Q. Did they allow Red Cross packages to be sent to you?
- A. The prisoners in the prisoner of war camp received them but we did not. The help we got from the Swiss was not from the Red Cross.
- Q. Do you have any complaints to make relative to the treatment you received at Nanking?
- A. The treatment here was a little better, with better food. We received a small arount of redical attention. We were not allowed any reading matter, and were punished for talking. They usually handcuffed us so we could not move our hands at all. In the Spring and Surver, we were with a shortage of water. At one time we were confined four in

a cell with no room to lie down; but most of the time we had enough space. For the most, you could say we received fairly moderate treatment. This was true except for one time we were severely punished for a violation of the prison regulations. They tried to keep us from talking, and the suards tried to control the situation by adopting measures of their own. On the 25th of June 1945 in Manking, we were seven in a cell which was pretty crowded and we had been warned to stop talkin . This we failed to do so the guard closed the windows of the cell and it was very hot. The plurbing consisted of a bucket in the corner. One of the prisoners broke a window to let in some air. Everyone from the Contending Officer down, case down to investigate and took out five of us who were in good health and put us in leather strait jackets. They were then taken out in the yard and water was thrown on them, so that when the leather dried, it would draw up. Coulson had been very ill. I had recovered from my illness but had dropped in weight down to 115 pounds. We were given extra consideration by not being put into strait jackets. We were put into heavy leather belts to which were clamped hand cuffs, for fifteen days.

- Q. What were the conditions at Peking?
- A. It was run much more tautly. They pushed us around considerably, but there were no beatings. The food was very poor. From 6 October 1944, until we were released, we were not allowed to have any contact with outsiders such as the Swiss Consul, nor receive any outside aid. We were not allowed to write letters. We received several letters during the first few months, but during the last six months we did not. We were not allowed any tobacco. When we were in Klang Wan and Nanking, both places were borbed several times by U. S. Army bombers.
- Q. Were your places of confinement close to military action?
 - A. Yes, right in the midst of it. We could hear the Japs drilling in our vicinity.
 - Q. Were there any anti-aircraft suns in your vicinity?
 - at the borbers as they flew over the area. On some occasions we could see the American P-51's and F-29's.
 - Q. Did any bombs fall within the prison?
 - A. The prison at Kiang Wen was a very small building and no bombs landed actually in the enclosure, but they shook the building. The Jap guards were steel helmets and unlocked all the cell doors with the idea of moving Jap prisoners out, but we were not taken to shelters. The sanitary facilities here were very bad. The prisoners who were sick got very little medical treatment, and nobody was allowed any dental treatment.

- Q. Did they work you?
- A. Some of the enlisted men prisoners worked in the marden at ward Road Gaol, but it was voluntary. It gave them a leeway to prepare for the escape. No one worked at any other place.
- Q. From your observation, in your opinion, was the lack of food due to the lack of the food supplies of the Japanese, or was it a planned system of starvation?
- A. I think there was planty of food in China and the Japs could and did get it. Our rations in the prisons were supposed to be the same as for the other prisoners, and they were except for the fact that the Japs in charge of the food would often times steal it.
- Q. Would those in charge of the prisoner of war carps deliberately underfeed the prisoners?
- A. Yes. In the prisoner of war camp it was true. I know that from the evidence that they were kept in very low physical state because of holding out on the food.

NOTE: When we left the military prison at Peking I know that there was confined therein four of the Doolittle fliers: Lieutenant Neilson, Hite, and Barr, and Sgt. Deshazer. They were confined in that prison for two days after our release and until I made contact with the rescue mission and told them of their whereabouts. I did not see these men at Nanking, but did see them in the cells in the Peking military prison as I was going to and from the wash-room; however, I did not get to hold any conversation with them until after our release.

/s/ Winfield S. Cumingham.
WINFIELD S. CUMNINGFAM, Capt.
U.S.N.

State of Maryland)
(SS County of Anne Arundel)

I, Winfield S. Cunningham of lawful are, being duly sworn on oath, state that I have read the foregoing transcription of my interrogation, and all answers contained therein are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

/s/ Winfield S. Cunningham Capt. WINFIELD S. CUNNINGFAM, Capt. U.S.N.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 26th day of November 1945.

/s/ A. Evelyn Weyson

Ny Commission expires
Ney 5, 1942 (SEAL)

(3) 大葉、大ートラーボード、ナーナ・エン・エン・カー・エン・カー・カー・アー・ス 大猫香町、海のはての大田下下下で、 SCOLT COMMANA MANA デード 米圏 できた、 まされる 間後大猫本の は大きにする、下下下 长螺(X=-+小一年 FKH=K K-2.HN.
(CEDAR PARK, R.F.D.# 2, ANNA POLIS, MARYLAND) (10) 对如此 : 在下面 水 十二 小川 ~ 隊、(十.中下,十人) 1大田二十十十十二日日日日日日日日 You II FOUT 因其各於加智十一不為於十一初又多順卷二 十十年 小下十一トガリッ 京 初いて田三十一日 十二日記 二十日日 九十一八日明二 三向ラナヤイー 日本一日人、京春十十十二十一届 河下、27日下部十二日人、京春八十八十一日 の場と日本人種語及東京、教園は着上一の一日十七日一種来一用りアクグン時速電の一日十七日一種来一用りアクグン時速電 一食見いいとり ライイ が送し用いる 第一百分 X、羅展下下回员不無遇了多人下居少人不 日から来るとは中でから、後の、一日 二十三日三上海一到着日子二十五日日東大衛二行 半,其处于上陸之,上海貨房水成所上之下 香·12十一种多种感致激烈以上, 年里来中人少 人, 少一十四年年福、张华、广学厅上的人人 タメルニ田九日草原カンと海にはしてかわり ISHANGHAH

Dec 8209

NO.2

アング、ソンチ二月二十六日三里水松二月十七万子が三日日/Weosunat 土日三知、草處カラ脱走らてなが、了空日也、四 人一番しは、樹一角(ランコンラ、サーの人、名い英國海軍 我なに思えて同りきすい垣し下す扱りテットはは 收完并力了外人出後手子楊子江上黄瀬江上人 合意地与スマデ行を生に意然が酒中/pootung/(海スワウト計書 とううなない、舟の子えしいコトか出来ナカリタデ河の構動 男であり物は三行キマシタ、其、ロノ中三年が強いと後や子本なるまたってンかとうが調ニナいタイを衣は北輩山村、近り中国人 か其長三居にトイフ、話が廣かり其、中国人農夫の中国、地 方像偏原者的一次とラーナを報告とおる者へ大き柳八日本 己子雖可掛と己子送り戻すいい、十同己子限走らう軍三引張とつる人教尽是故一夢是刑務所が二日問週 カラボスタメニ收容所内す引き迎せつてしる。とかう我な 「BRIDGE HOUSE」に移サンフンク。教は、取論へ「内文ナナ る一人記引在一郎一角三人とうてる方、然こよう見なまりかう一、月東京一村的サン、アリッチ、小のスー郎一本のとSE 野温をでこいてえるまナ五人、中國人、因人上中立人」因人 (風間人)かないている。) ···· [四月十四日二枚及八江湾/KIANG WAN/一百十百 刑務所 二年して行かに直を発す数判可信り間一下月初日十 してころ、我は、到着ころの一四月十四月二数利うの又とろ そろか、裁判しきりクロ本人二明ラカニを来三人ラ ナカワラかやろいしず大月二日田人を敬料かアリフとろったのととますして

洪龍八事美工一日平约十三時間四十五分供房一監禁下下 女しりトーフ見快きつ、こうへは死して、デしりくらか、正だろいア のりかいかけり青露ニッチサルコトが出来ている。我なに同 2月過三十分運動ランマンス、其、数判、裁判、一つ通念 のかる見き本生、教科しいきはつけるがいとり、我な何は意 クスコトが強ーー、下田一一般成又にトーアコトタケット はきらし、ころや、デレスが数却べる、日本人将管のはしる。原り一日本人には割手段ニョッテ情報で 教制長三日他一展員八二十一陸軍大在一名法軍 少性一名以底、病疾不合及、疾亡等大部一份以 持り人でき、我々、石種一國際原門、単下下是等 杨定一下三於下八階走一對人口與唐刑二三十日一往年 整体はアショントと指摘している。我の一般に下午一門 依殿都一些一个一个男孩比小孩子小玩一小小了了 本法は、甘子が足事行関デハナトが次ッ下去はは る情報に協東サットトー工張している。信等ではなって 本格的一种的一个是明白本里的一般然后有了下 教却」と、いろ。附在」、一般と三人、四年籍者、十十年株の 題、ドスー公/TETEKS/こで手、ソント中国へかるになる り様は頭子言をはいてきっていけい日へ日二秋でいい一种子中です の新一般ないことの我は八二年中、日本三後二年のころでで、「WAKD KOND」一部が打造し地で、サンド子居以上海市立即於 キントノン、「大の田子十年」、日二成の「WARD ROAD」

のお地・ちゃってきておる下する また、何も同行一選会の上では着に属しまいとは、中にこのしき所 とは、ドイリント、いて、BSIDGE HOORE/世界本プロー語とは一度

ク四五枚、天本、書けててて、たにはカラーナーテーデンと、秋又

でるり一十一月一日子内十五分及一体操りンは係り」

日本のできるとは、これははなるとうできるというというというというというできて、またはないというできないというとはないというとはないというとなる。 またはないとうと 後一年後下與十十十十十一年到一日本中世界四十二年

陈上语/KHUHWIN/一門於广·大東小子達的下之及衛口前日 以外ははないないのできたないことのとは他にはしていること 人監議矣、飲寒り後口…午下月万人一四人了了了了一点 想はいいいかられる

阿老子殿原言(食物,又一十日十二八日本人食能致死一下以 ・ルメルトルーはカアペドラー、ド本国な、生いの経過には 中一はかて日本アルスの

原子園にを禁を使すける一次かっているかくくしいかの人とこ 五天人気を入して一人とはいいと下はたいなる在地 我是は他国人意子は一下ナストナーナイトオラインコーで 下陽うてたの本人が作の過しなしとて下下部との人間一

阿管察然有所等理之生也人会成意一食種了成了之中,可 ひ、等人を實達一、健然以保が非常一是かるよう珍様かり、 答不信意及添介下:一才不當不不食的力減了十一人之後